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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for establishing compatibility between
5 heterogeneous web server access log formats, comprising:
supplying a description of an access log file of a
web server, by:
opening a customizable configuration file;
if the access log is static, setting a log
10 pattern definition to describe data elements, order, and
syntax of log entries;
if the access log is dynamic, setting a
dictionary feature for a log pattern definition;
saving and exiting the configuration file; and
15 invoking a computer process, wherein the process in
turn invokes a web server access log translation engine
(WSALTE) which translates the described web server access
log file to a desired log format and returns the
translated file back to the computer process.
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2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
computer process comprises at least one of a tool,
application, and adapter.
- 25 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of
setting the log pattern definition for a static access
log further comprises:
examining each of a plurality of data elements in an
entry of the access log file;
30 if a data element contains a delimiter that may
exist in another data element, isolating the data by

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replacing the WSALTE terminology with a user substitute definition;

equating the user substitute definition with WSALTE terminology;

5 equating the user substitute definition delimiters with non-unique delimiters; and

removing non-unique delimiters from a parent delimiter list.

10 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of setting the dictionary feature for a dynamic access log further comprises:

examining each of a plurality of data elements in an entry of the access log file;

15 if the name of the data element equates with a WSALTE name in the dictionary feature, equating the server name with a WSALTE name;

if the name of the data element does not equate with a WSALTE name, determining if the data element name

20 contains multiple WSALTE names;

if the data element name contains multiple WSALTE names, providing substitute definitions, using WSALTE names, which describe discreet data elements; and

25 if the data element name does not contain multiple WSALTE names, equating the server name with an ignore label.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the customizable configuration file is an ASCII file.

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6. A method for translating heterogeneous web server access log formats, comprising:

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reading a customizable configuration file and
 creating configuration objects;
 setting a log pattern variable;
 opening a server access log file and reading a line
 5 within the file;
 translating data in the file line into a desired log
 format, by:
 parsing a server access log file line;
 if there is no error in retrieving required
 10 data, reordering data elements and syntax to mimic the
 desired log format;
 if there is an error in retrieving required
 data, checking if there is an entry in the web server
 comment field;
 15 if there is no entry in the comment field,
 rereading the file line;
 if there is an entry in the comment field,
 checking that a dictionary feature is enabled;
 sending the translated data to a computer process;
 20 and
 exiting when all lines in the access log file have
 been read.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of
 25 setting the log pattern variable further comprises:
 retrieving configuration objects for data elements,
 order, and syntax of the log pattern;
 retrieving configuration objects for a log pattern
 delimiter list;
 30 if the definition of the log pattern is static,
 parsing the log pattern definition and reading a data
 element;

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if the data element does not correspond to a web server log translation engine (WSALTE) name, calling a protocol which resolves naming convention;

if the data element does correspond to a WSALTE name, setting a WSALTE variable to the name of the data element position; and

closing the configuration file when all data elements in the log pattern definition have been read.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of checking that the dictionary feature is enabled further comprises:

if the dictionary feature is not enabled, reading the next line in the access log file;

if the dictionary feature is enabled, determining if the comment field entry describes a new log pattern;

if the comment field entry does not describe a new log pattern, reading the next line in the access log file; and

if the comment field entry does describe a new log pattern, translating the entry in the comment field to WSALTE terminology.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of translating the entry in the comment field to WSALTE terminology further comprises:

reading a data element in the comment field;

if a WSALTE name equates with the name of the data element, replacing the data element name with the WSALTE name;

if a WSALTE name does not equate with the name of the data element, replacing the data element name with an

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ignore label; and

exiting after all data elements in the comment field
have been read.

5 10. The method according to claim 6, wherein the
customizable configuration file is an ASCII file.

11. A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for use in a data processing system, for
10 establishing compatibility between heterogeneous web
server access log formats, comprising:

instructions for receiving a description of an
access log file of a web server, by:

opening a customizable configuration file;
15 if the access log is static, setting a log
pattern definition to describe data elements, order, and
syntax of log entries;

if the access log is dynamic, setting a
dictionary feature for a log pattern definition;
20 saving and exiting the configuration file;
and

instructions for invoking a computer process,
wherein the process in turn invokes a web server access
log translation engine (WSALTE) which translates the
25 described web server access log file to a desired log
format and returns the translated file back to the
computer process.

12. A computer program product in a computer readable
30 medium for use in a data processing system, for
translating heterogeneous web server access log formats,
the computer program product comprising:

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instructions for reading a customizable
configuration file and creating configuration objects;
instructions for setting a log pattern variable;
instructions for opening a server access log file
5 and reading a line within the file;
instructions for translating data in the file line
into a desired log format, by:
parsing a server access log file line;
if there is no error in retrieving required
10 data, reordering data elements and syntax to mimic the
desired log format;
if there is an error in retrieving required
data, checking if there is an entry in the web server
comment field;
15 if there is no entry in the comment field,
rereading the file line;
if there is an entry in the comment field,
checking that a dictionary feature is enabled;
instructions for sending the translated data to a
20 computer process; and
instructions for exiting when all lines in the
access log file have been read.

13. The computer program product according to claim 12,
25 wherein the instructions for setting the log pattern
variable further comprises:
instructions for retrieving configuration objects
for data elements, order, and syntax of the log pattern;
instructions for retrieving configuration objects
30 for a log pattern delimiter list;
if the definition of the log pattern is static,
instructions for parsing the log pattern definition and

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reading a data element;

if the data element does not correspond to a
web server log translation engine (WSALTE) name,
instructions for calling a protocol which resolves naming
5 convention;

if the data element does correspond to a WSALTE
name, instructions for setting a WSALTE variable to the
name of the data element position; and

instructions for closing the configuration file when
10 all data elements in the log pattern definition have been
read.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein the
instructions for checking that the dictionary feature is
15 enabled further comprises:

if the dictionary feature is not enabled,
instructions for reading the next line in the access log
file;

if the dictionary feature is enabled, instructions
20 for determining if the comment field entry describes a
new log pattern;

if the comment field entry does not describe a
new log patter, instructions for reading the next line in
the access log file; and

25 if the comment field entry does describe a new
log pattern, instructions for translating the entry in
the comment filed to WSALTE terminology.

15. The computer program product according to claim 14,
30 wherein the instructions for translating the entry in the
comment filed to WSALTE terminology further comprises:

instructions for reading a data element in the

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comment field;

if a WSALTE name equates with the name of the data element, instructions for replacing the data element name with the WSALTE name;

- 5 if a WSALTE name does not equate with the name of the data element, instructions for replacing the data element name with an ignore label; and

instructions for exiting after all data elements in the comment field have been read.

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16. The computer program product according to claim 12, wherein the customizable configuration file is an ASCII file.

- 15 17. A system for establishing compatibility between heterogeneous web server access log formats, comprising:
a receiving component which receives a description of an access log file of a web server, by:

opening a customizable configuration file;

- 20 if the access log is static, setting a log pattern definition to describe data elements, order, and syntax of log entries;

if the access log is dynamic, setting a dictionary feature for a log pattern definition;

- 25 saving and exiting the configuration file; and

an invoking component which invokes a computer process, wherein the process in turn invokes a web server access log translation engine (WSALTE) which translates the described web server access log file to a desired log
30 format and returns the translated file back to the computer process.

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18. A system for translating heterogeneous web server access log formats, comprising:

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    a selection component which sets a log pattern
variable;

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a translating component which translates data in the file line into a desired log format, by:

if there is no error in retrieving required data, reordering data elements and syntax to mimic the desired log format;

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        if there is no entry in the comment field,
rereading the file line;

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a communication component which sends the translated data to a computer process; and

an exiting mechanism which exits when all lines in the access log file have been read.